

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR GR TY CY
SUBJ: CLERIDES COMMENTS IN ATHENS ON ROUND FOUR OF THE
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

1. SPEAKER OF THE CYPRIOT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GLAFKIS CLERIDES ARRIVED IN ATHENS THE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 5 ENROUTE TO NEW YORK FOR THE FOURTH ROUND OF THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS. IN AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT ATHENS AIRPORT, CLERIDES ASSERTED HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH. NOTING THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HAD NOT YET SUBMITTED ANY PROPOSALS DESPITE ITS EARLIER PROMISE TO DO SO BY THE END OF AUGUST, CLERIDES STATED THAT "THIS TURKISH ATTITUDE IS INDICATIVE OF UNWILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS." CLERIDES ALSO INDICATED THAT SHOULD THE TALKS FAIL, CYPRUS WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY TAKE THE MATTER TO THE UN AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO HAVE TURKEY CONDEMNED FOR NOT HAVING IMPLEMENTED EARLIER UN RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS.

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY NEWSMEN, CLERIDES STATED THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE DOES NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE DENKTASH PROPOSAL FOR THE FORMATION OF AN INTERIM

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OR A JOINT SECRETARIAT SINCE THIS PROPOSAL HAD ALREADY BEEN REJECTED. CLERIDES ALSO NOTED THAT THE EC-9 INITIATIVE IN APPROACHING GREECE AND TURKEY RESULTED FROM COMMUNITY RECOGNITION THAT THERE IS A DANGER OF AN IMPASSE IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WHICH IT WISHES TO AVOID. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, CLERIDES ASSERTED THAT THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF TURKISH TROOPS FROM CYPRUS IS OF NO IMPORTANCE AS LONG AS THE MILITARY OCCUPATION CONTINUES; HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT SUCH A WITHDRAWAL MIGHT BE UTILIZED BY THE USG TO TRY TO INFLUENCE CONGRESS ON THE QUESTION OF THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. FINALLY, CLERIDES DECLARED THAT AN IMPASSE AT THE FOURTH ROUND OF THE TALKS MAY RESULT IN A CRISIS; HE NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO CERTAIN REPORTS, THE TURKS HAVE ALREADY PLANS FOR PROCLAMING AN INDEPENDENT TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE.

3. CLERIDES' STATEMENT RECEIVED HEAVY PLAY ON RADIO AND TV, AND PROMINENT COVERAGE IN THE SEPTEMBER 6 PRESS. REPRESENTATIVE HEADLINES FOLLOW: ACROPOLIS (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT) - "PESSIMISM CONCERNING SOLUTION FOR CYPRUS"; TO VIMA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION) "COMPLETE PESSIMISM ON THE NEW PHASE OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS"; KATHIMERINI (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT) - "CARAMANLIS AND CLERIDES MET YESTERDAY ON THE QUESTION OF CYPRUS: NO OPTIMISM BECAUSE OF THE POSITION OF THE TURKS."

4. WHILE HERE CLERIDES IS MEETING WITH GOG OFFICIALS. SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL YESTERDAY HE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND LATER WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. KUBISCH

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